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LETTER DATED 11 JUNE 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 10 June 1993 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, relating to the letter dated 28 May 1993 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the United Nations Programme and the security situation in northern Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 10 June 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 28 May 1993 addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the United Nations Programme and the security situation in northern Iraq. I should like to make certain facts clear to you and to the members of the Security Council and to set forth my Government's position on some of the points raised in that letter.

1. Iraq has stated on several occasions that since the autumn of 1991 the governorates of Dohuk, Irbil and Sulaymaniyah have not been under the control of government authorities. The anomalous situation obtaining in these three governorates is the result of the direct military intervention of the Governments of the United States of America, Great Britain and France, which are preventing the Iraqi authorities from exercising their functions in these parts of Iraq and threatening to resort to force if the Iraqi authorities should assume their normal responsibilities there. As a result of this open interference in Iraq's internal affairs, the region has come under the control of armed bands and a state of virtual secession has been imposed. The area is wide open to the interference of the Iranian regime and of other States, to a repetition of the Iranian acts of aggression against its inhabitants and to widespread anarchy, instability and insecurity. The Iraqi authorities cannot, of course, accept any responsibility for what happens there, and this includes the threats made to United Nations personnel. Given the situation imposed on the Government of Iraq, it is surprising that the United Nations should ask it to take what it calls the "necessary measures" to improve the humanitarian situation in the northern governorates and to ensure the security of their inhabitants.

The Iraqi authorities are prepared to assume all of their normal responsibilities in the area if States members of the Security Council do not prevent them from so doing. Despite the anomalous situation, the Government has provided facilities to relief convoys proceeding to the northern governorates and to United Nations personnel in all the areas under its control in order to ensure the implementation of programmes approved under the Plan of Action covering these governorates and various other sectors.

2. Iraq has cooperated with the Humanitarian Programme since the signing of the first Memorandum of Understanding, in the anticipation that the Programme would provide essential assistance to adversely affected population groups. Events have, however, demonstrated that the Programme has been used for political purposes by certain foreign countries. Owing to pressures brought to bear by these States, the Programme has not attracted the funding necessary to meet its costs, which was the basic concern of the members of the Council as reflected in the letter. Consequently, Iraq is in no way responsible for the difficulties that have beset the Humanitarian Programme.

3. All unbiased observers know that the real way to alleviate the sufferings of the Iraqi population caused by shortages of food, medicines and other basic humanitarian needs is to lift the iniquitous embargo that has been maintained against Iraq for three years. The Security Council is therefore invited to fulfil its obligations towards Iraq and its people by lifting the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people rather than imputing unjust blame to the Iraqi authorities.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq
